

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 036849

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: EEC, PGOV, PDIP, XA, DA, US

SUBJECT: US/EC PRESIDENCY DIALOGUE: AFRICAN ISSUES

REF: STATE 4068

1. SUMMARY: DANISH AMBASSADOR BORCH, ACCOMPANIED BY
MINISTER COUNSELOR KIMBERG, CALLED UPON DEPUTY ASSISTANT
SECRETARY HARROP FEBRUARY 6 FOR AN UPDATE ON RECENT
DEVELOPMENTS IN AFRICA. HE WISHED TO DISCUSS RHODESIA,
NAMIBIA, EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES CODES FOR SOUTH AFRICA AND
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THE HORN. END SUMMARY.

2. RHODESIA: HARROP DESCRIBED THE JANUARY 30-31 TALKS IN
MALTA AS USEFUL AND CONSTRUCTIVE. IN AN EFFORT TO
SATISFY PATRIOTIC FRONT (PF) DEMANDS FOR A DOMINANT
ROLE DURING THE TRANSITION PERIOD, THE UK PROPOSED THAT A

10 MEMBER GOVERNING COUNCIL, COMPOSED OF THOSE PARTIES WHICH TOOK PART IN THE GENEVA CONFERENCE, BE CREATED TO SHARE POWER WITH RESIDENT COMMISSIONER CARVER IN ADMINISTERING THE TERRITORY DURING THE TRANSITIONAL PERIOD. THE PF WOULD HAVE FOUR OF THE TEN SEATS ON THE GOVERNING COUNCIL. HARROP STATED THAT THIS WAS AS FAR AS THE US/UK SIDE COULD GO IN MEETING PATRIOTIC FRONT DEMANDS.

THE PATRIOTIC FRONT LEADERS EXPRESSED INTEREST IN THE UK PROPOSAL, ALTHOUGH IT DID NOT APPEAR TO SATISFY THEM. THE PATRIOTIC FRONT TOLD US THEY WISHED TO HAVE MORE DISCUSSIONS WITH US. WE PLAN ALSO TO TALK FURTHER WITH THE FRONT LINE STATES AND TO BRIEF ALL THE INTERESTED PARTIES. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION, HARROP STATED THAT RECENT PRESS REPORTS ALLEGING US-UK DIFFERENCES WERE NOT CORRECT. THE US AND THE UK HAD WORKED IN COMPLETE UNISON AT MALTA.

3. REGARDING THE MUZOREWA-SITHOLE-SMITH TALKS, HARROP SAID THAT MUZOREWA HAD RETURNED TO THE TALKS, BUT ACCORDING TO OUR INFORMATION WOULD NOT ACCEPT THE IDEA OF SEPARATE VOTING ROLLS FOR WHITES AND BLACKS. EVEN IF AN INTERNAL AGREEMENT WERE ANNOUNCED, WE INTENDED TO CONTINUE TO DISCUSS THE US/UK INITIATIVE AS THE FORMULA BEST SATISFYING ALL THE REQUIREMENTS FOR A PEACEFUL AND DURABLE SETTLEMENT.

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4. NAMIBIA: HARROP STATED THAT DISCUSSIONS WOULD BE DIFFICULT AT THE FORTHCOMING PROXIMITY TALKS IN NEW YORK ON NAMIBIA. COMPROMISES BY BOTH SOUTH AFRICA AND SWAPO WOULD BE NEEDED, AND NEITHER HAD SHOWN MUCH FLEXIBILITY. THE US BELIEVES THAT THE CONTACT GROUP PAPER OFFERS A REASONABLE BASIS FOR A SETTLEMENT AND THE FACT THAT THE FIVE WESTERN FOREIGN MINISTERS WILL BE COMING TO THE PROXIMITY TALKS HAS SYMBOLIC IMPORTANCE.

5. EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES CODES: HARROP EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE WILLINGNESS OF THE DANISH GOVERNMENT TO HOST A CONFERENCE TO DISCUSS A COMMON CODE OF EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES FOR FIRMS OPERATING IN SOUTH AFRICA. THE US WAS STILL EVALUATING THE RESPONSES RECEIVED FROM VARIOUS CAPITALS TO OUR SUGGESTION OF DRAFTING A COMMON CODE OF CONDUCT. SINCE SOME OF THESE RESPONSES WERE EITHER NONCOMMITTAL OR LUKEWARM, WE WISHED TO CONSIDER CAREFULLY WHETHER THE PROSPECTS FOR A SUCCESSFUL CONFERENCE WERE SUFFICIENTLY GOOD TO WARRANT HOLDING ONE.

6. THE HORN: HARROP STATED THE US BELIEF THAT THE BEST WAY TO MINIMIZE SOVIET PRESENCE IN THE HORN WAS TO REMOVE THE CAUSES FOR THE SOVIET PRESENCE. THE US HAS TURNED DOWN REQUESTS FROM SEVERAL COUNTRIES THAT THEY BE PERMITTED TO SUPPLY US-ORIGIN WEAPONS TO SOMALIA,

AND WE HAVE STRONGLY SUPPORTED OAU EFFORTS TO PROMOTE A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT. THE US HAS BEEN GIVING THOUGHT TO A POSSIBLE SETTLEMENT USING A TWO STAGE APPROACH. FIRST, THERE WOULD BE AN AGREEMENT ON ESSENTIAL PRINCIPLES. THEN THE SOMALI ARMED FORCES WOULD WITHDRAW FROM ETHIOPIAN TERRITORY. ETHIOPIA WOULD ARRANGE A SUBSTANTIAL DEGREE OF AUTONOMY FOR OGADEN PROVINCE, AND A PEACEKEEPING FORCE (PERHAPS UN OR OAU) WOULD BE FORMED TO ASSURE THE PHYSICAL SAFETY OF THE ETHNIC SOMALI
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POPULATION IN THE OGADEN. THERE WOULD BE AN AGREEMENT ON A CLEARLY DEFINED ETHIOPIAN-SOMALI BORDER IN THE OGADEN REGION. HARROP SAID THAT THIS SETTLEMENT PROPOSAL HAD BEEN DISCUSSED INCONCLUSIVELY WITH THE SOVIETS. VANCE

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